



Some of the old single pane windows in the chapel that we hope to replace with more efficient windows, which hold the heat in during the winter and allow the air to flow in the summer.



Concrete work on the Chapel Entrance for the faithful begins with the Brothers hard labour.

HELP US REPLACE OLD WINDOWS that let the cold winter winds blow into the Seminary Buildings! We have already insulated the ceilings and floors, but need to replace the single pane windows that provide little protection from the icy wet winds that blow in Goulburn. We will replace what we can – one window at a time. Thank you for your generous help.

- \$50,000.00 to improve the heating efficiency in the Seminary Chapel and Refectory.
- Priests', Brothers' and Seminarians' rooms: \$1,200 each. We hope to replace thirty windows for the dormitory rooms.



Southern Sentinel

Regnavit a ligno Deus

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Rev. Vicente A. Griego
Rector

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

The new academic year at the Seminary in this time of Lent, a time of penance, draws our attention to the joyful expectation of Our Lord's Resurrection. Our motive should not be simply that the Lenten Fast comes to an end, but that we long for our share in the Resurrection, to give glory to God, the reason of our existence.

Our seminarians have been reminded of this elementary truth in the opening retreats (for returning and new seminarians) preached by Fr. Thomas Onoda, from the District of Asia (thank you for the generous help, Father!). All men, and most especially those called to serve in Christ's Priesthood or in religion, must submit to God's plan for eternal happiness. God is good and man is drawn to good – we love good. A young man enters the Seminary in order to submit his life completely to God in a most sublime act of adoration.

The privilege of serving God in Holy Orders requires God's call, but a man must have a desire to give himself entirely to God's service. Such a man offers himself and then struggles to



The Seminary Community on 16 March 2010: Priests, Brothers, Seminarians and Lay Instructors



Thanks to the above average rainfall in February, the Seminary gardens are flourishing. Our many prayers for rain have been answered – Deo gratias!

discover, realize and live this profound truth. Sadly, many today, and this is not restricted to only layman, are quite ignorant of God's "call" to serve.

Without knowing God or His wonderful plan for men, very many live completely unaware of their purpose in life and live quite meaningless lives. ...*vanity of vanities, and all is vanity. What hath a man more of all his labour, that he taketh under the sun? One generation passeth away, and another cometh...* (Ecclesiastes 1:3-4). To build upon what has already been said, this ignorance is not restricted to pagans, who know not the true God or His plan, but even to Catholics, lay and cleric alike.

A prevailing spirit today is that of over-confidence in ourselves: our views, our opinions, our manners, our knowledge. Lost, to a great extent, are the days of humility before One greater than oneself. Before we presume that this lamentable condemnation does not

apply to ourselves, we do well to reflect upon our docility and submission to the directives of superiors: parents, employers, priests and religious superiors... each commanding in the name and authority of God; albeit, according to their perspective and limited ability in any given matter with respect to their duty of governing others.

When a boy chooses not to heed his mother's urging him to clean his room now, he disregards God and God's plan for this same boy to accompany Christ on His Way of the Cross, by obedience, generosity and diligence in carrying out the simple task of cleaning his room. Likewise, the tradesman or professional, who is meant to work efficiently and dutifully in his position during the course of the work day, or the cleric under the guidance of his superior's assigning him this or that apostolate... even under this or that constraint. In all these examples, Divine Providence is able to reap great achievements in man's sanctification and filial adoration rightly given to God. How often do God's plans go unnoticed, are they ignored or flatly refused, because we choose to "do it our own way?"

This ignorance, brought about by pride, results in our unwillingness to be told what to do – man will do as he wishes, when he wishes, how he wishes, even when it is a question of doing good. This is contrary to the example of Christ, Who ...*humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross.* (Phil 2:8) Christ, Who is God, came to do His Father's Will. (John 6:38)

Prideful man would simply tell God: "Accept me as I am," spurning the call to become more like Christ. This spirit of "equalizing" man with God is manifest in the casual attitude we display when at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Sport attire, unshaven, mobile phone, poorly prepared for – or too quickly gone after – Mass, display the lack of the reverence that should rightly follow a true understanding about Christ's Sacrifice. We really do not know, or we have forgotten, what God accomplishes in the Holy Mass.

If we truly understood what God does for us, we would strive to have greater reverence for the Holy Sacrifice and would more earnestly strive to live according to its spirit. Throughout Lent, Holy Mother Church implores us to, and takes for granted that we are, living the forty days of penance, as did Our Divine Lord two thousand years ago. Daily there are numerous inferences of our presumed compliance with Christ's "obedience unto death," by our participation in the Lenten austerity. However, given the general weakness of modern man, very few (Traditional Catholics included) purpose to fulfil this discipline.

Consider these examples from the Sacred Liturgy, which repeat again and again, each day of Lent, the motive of our presupposed fasting and penance:

"O God, who dost purify thy Church by the yearly observance of Lent: grant to thy household, that what we strive to obtain from thee by abstinence, we may achieve by good works." -Collect, First Sunday of Lent

"Mercifully perfect within us, we beseech thee, O Lord, the aid given us by this holy observance: that what by thine instruction we know we should do, by thine assistance we may do it." -Collect, Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent

"We beseech thee, O Lord, bless our fasts with Thy gracious favour: that as in body we abstain from food, so we may fast from sin in mind." -Collect, Friday of the Third Week of Lent

"Mercifully pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts: that we who restrain ourselves from sin by voluntary chastisement may suffer for a time rather than be condemned to eternal punishment." -Collect, Friday in Passion Week

These repetitious appeals to God's mercy beg our generous and confident participation in the penitential observances during Lent. We are rightly rebuked for our lack of generosity and our tepidity, at a time when we are meant to understand more clearly and seek more earnestly God's profound love and generosity, so manifest in the Passion and Death of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

May we strive to live according to the heroic example of Christ, depending upon His grace which comes to us through the Mother of Sorrows, who mourns her erring children's pitiful state. May the Blessed Virgin, who gave Christ to the world, bestow upon us every help to be strengthened and purified, by our sincerely calling upon her aid: *Sub tuum praesidium, confugimus... We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of God: despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin!*

Finally, please pray for all of us at Holy Cross. May we persevere in serving Our Lord faithfully and generously. Thank you for your generosity in spiritual and material aid so kindly given us. In the longed-for Resurrection of Our Saviour, we are assured many graces through the bountiful hands of Our Lady. May she bring us to share eternally in the resplendent joys of heaven, where there will be no weeping and our tears shall be wiped away.

In Christ the King,

Rev. Fr. Vicente A. Griego
Rector, Holy Cross Seminary